DR. G. D. NOKES: Yes. I gave a detailed proposal some months ago by which confirmation can be made according to seniority and on the order of merit.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Town*): May I know how the different heads of departments can know about the seniority of the candidates?

DR. G. D. NOKES: If they have any doubt, information may be given to them.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Is there any circular making it incumbent upon the head of the department to take and act up to the advise of the Public Service Commissioner?

DR. G. D. NOKES: There is a Government order to that effect.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I know whether persons who were numbered 8, 5, and 180 in the result of the competitive examination were confirmnd in the Registration Department or out of service?

DR. G. D. NOKES: Over 200 candidates were appointed who have passed the selective test examination.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I know whether persons from the second bach is recommended for appointment before the first btach is complete?

DR. G. D. NOKES: No.

MR. E P. VARGHESE: Whether instances are brought to the notice of the Public Service Commissioner about partiality in the matter of confirmation with reference to Nos. 2, 85 and 180?

DR. G. D. NOKES: No.

Trade Agent at Bombay.

291 * MR. K. T. THOMAS (*Tiruvella*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the extent of the financial commitments incurred by the Government through their Trade Agent at Bombay?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There are no financial commitments as such incurred by Government through their Trade Agent at Bombay. The Government Sales Depot at Bombay holds stocks of goods worth about Rs. 1,573 on consignment accounts from different traders in Travancore and goods worth about Rs. 5,232 from various Government institutions.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: May I know from Government whether they have received complaints regarding the financial dealings of the Trade Agent?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: May I know from Government whether it has been brought to their notice that large amounts of money have to be realised from the Trade Agent by way of price of articles supplied to him for sale?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is the complaint.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: May I know to what amount it may come?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : There is no information as regards the total amount.

MR. K. T. THOMAS : May I know whether any enquiry has been conducted by Government with regard to this?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : No, Sir.

MR. K. T. THOMAS : May I know the reasons therefor?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Government have no responsiblity in the matter.

MR. K. T. THOMAS : May I knnw whether the Trade Agent was their agent at Bombay?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : The Trade Agent was their agent.

MR. K. T. THOMAS : May I know whether the Trade Agent was held out to the public as their agent at Bombay?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : The public were not given any assurance that Government will be liable to them for their transactions with the Trade Agent at Bombay.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI : Sir, At the time the Trade Agent was appointed, may I know whether the undersatnding was that private consigners could deal with him direct?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Not on the responsiblity of the Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI : I wish to know why the Trade Agent was appointed—whether merely to deal with consignments of things sent by Government or deal with consignments of articles sent by private individuals?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : The understanding was that the other consigners should engage him on their own responsibility.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI : My question is, what is the main object with which the Trade Agent was appointed—whether to deal with goods consigned by Government or to deal with goods sent by other consigners?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Sir, it was not then contemplated that the Trade Agent should undertake responsibility on behalf of Government, in dealing with others.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI : Sir, I wish to get a definite answer to this question whether it was not for the purpose of enabling traders and producers in Travancore to find markets for their own goods that the Trade Agent was appointed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Yes, Sir, it was one of the objects; at the same time, the Government did not want to undertake any financial responsibility in the matter.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI : Was it that the Government undertook no responsibility whatsoever in respect of consignments sent by private consigners?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Yes, Sir; the Government did not undertake any responsibility.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether they declined responsibility?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, when the occasion arose they repudiated all liabilities.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Did the occasion arise at any time before this man proved to be fraud?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There is nothing to show that The question was not raised and there was no occasion to deal with it earlier.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether Government have settled their accounts with this individual. I wish to know whether Government have settled all accounts with this Trade Agent?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The accounts have not been, so far as I can now say, finally closed.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Sir, how long is it since this gentleman was found out to be a fraud?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It was more than a year ago.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know at what stage the affair stands now -how is it that it has not been settled; is it because he is not available or that no accounts are available?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sir, all that I can say is that this matter is not finally closed.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Then, may I know why it is not finally closed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have stated that it is pending final decision. The matter will take sometime.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know the approximate figure for which the Agent is bound to account to the Government?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I claim notice Sir.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: I do not hear the Chief Secretary!

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sir I claim notice.

MR A. THANU PILLAI: Will it be thousands or ten thousands or lakhs of rupees?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: No, I cannot say that. I have already stated.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The Chief Secretary does not know whether it amounts to a lakh or ten thousand rupees.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: No, Sir, it is only a small amount, if at all.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: I wish to know the smallness of it.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It is not possible to give an answer to that question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Sir, I wished to know the smallness because a lakh may be a small amount so far as Government are concerned.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. If the Chief Secretary has any idea of the amount he may say that.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, Sir. I have already stated that it is if at all only a small amount, a small amount from the point of view not only of Government but also the ordinary citizens.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether Government have any hope of Getting the accounts I mean whether Government have any hold on the individual ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, Sir. Government have not given up all hopes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know the last occasion when Government heard from him ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have not got the information ready.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : ഇദ്ദേഹം ഇപ്പോൾ ജീവിച്ചിരിപ്പുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know the last occasion when Government wrote to him ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sir, I claim notice.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I take it, Sir, that this gentlemen had been let off free by Government ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: No, Sir.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether complaints of private individuals are still pending with the Government so far as this gentleman is concerned ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: No, Sir. There is nothing pending.

Assistant Educational Health officer.

292 *MR. K. T. THOMAS: Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether recently a recruitment has been made to the post of the Assistant Educational Health Officer ;

(*b*) how many candidates had applied for the place to the Public Service Commissioner;

(*c*) whether any competitive examination has been held by the Public Service Commissioner for the applicants ;

(*d*) whether the Public Service Commissioner interviewed these candidates ;

(*e*) on what basis the Public Service Commissioner made his recommendation for the appointments ; and

(*f*) the name and educational and other qualifications possessed by the person recommended for appointment by the Public Service Commissioner ?

DR. G. D. NOKES: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 42.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Order of merit based on the prescribed and notified qualifications.

(*f*) Mr. N. Nilakantan Nair B. A., Supervisor, Mosquito control works, Public Health Department, Graduation in Biology, knowledge of public health work and ability in public speaking and writing and experience for over two years in health propaganda.

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